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**SHOP EARLY.**

The early Christmas shopping movement is taking on a more aggressive and definite form this year than ever before. A magazine devoted to the uplift is distributing press-matter and cuts gratis to newspapers, trying to educate the people by argument and cartoon not to put off their gift-buying till the last mad rush. The Times-Dispatch is giving useful space on its front page to the same good cause. Newspapers all over the country are disinterestedly joining in, as they have done for years, to assist the shopper to serve his own interest by serving those of the shopman.

There is only one side to the early shopping argument. It is all affirmative. Those who make it a practice to buy their presents in good season have all the best of it. They get the pick of the stock. They get plenty of attention from salespeople who have plenty of time to give them. They get prompt deliveries, the opportunity to reconsider and exchange, all the advantages that logically come from doing things at the right time instead of exactly the wrong time. And for these advantages no price has to be paid except a little common, ordinary forethought and a victory over the imp procrastination. That is the selfish reason for shopping early: it pays handsomely. The unselfish reason for it, and the reason that has given this the dignity of a "movement," is that it is an enormous help to the shop people. When the entire city jams into the shopping district in a single day it needs no argument to show that the strain upon the shop forces, no matter whether they be doubled or tripled, reaches and passes the breaking point. The salesmen and salesgirls are kept going from 7 or 8 in the morning till 11 or 12 at night; the delivery forces are driven even harder; the whole system is overtaxed and demoralized; and an atmosphere of crossness and impatience and bad temper and weary fault-finding is created, which is exactly the reverse of what the Christmas spirit should be.

To put things off till the last moment is a human weakness which cannot be easily overcome, no matter how logical the arguments. Still we have hopes. The newspapers have hammered long for a safe and sane Fourth, and now very slowly they are beginning to get results. Probably they have already done something for the cause of early shopping, and they will do more before they are through simply by reminding people constantly of what they already know. The Times-Dispatch hopes that the people of Richmond will this year take hold of the cause with the cordiality which it deserves. To distribute the big rush over six weeks instead of stupidly crowding it into three days would be to give the shopper infinitely better service and the shop people the nicest Christmas present imaginable.

**THE PORT OF MISSING MEN.**

There is a strong likelihood that Colonel Astor is alive and safe. Communication between the West Indies is far from complete; wireless messages are not infallible; the colonel's staunch yacht may be safely anchored in some harbor, while all America is wondering whether its owner is still alive. But old sea-dogs are shaking their heads and prophesying that the Nourmahal is lying battered and wrecked on some West Indian reef. They attach particular importance to the fact that the wreck of a steamer, exactly answering the description of the missing vessel, was sighted Saturday by a passing freighter.

But regardless of his immediate fate, the incidents surrounding Col. Astor's disappearance and the quest now being made for him give an unusual interest to the subject. If the colonel, now cooling down after recent judicial proceedings, lives and reads what is being said about him, he will probably be as much amused as he will be impressed with his importance in the eyes of the public. If he is not found, there will be another entry in the port of missing men, and long speculation as to his fate.

The romance of the deep contains no more interesting page than that which covers the mysterious disappearance of ships. Every now and then the Bureau of Marine Intelligence publishes a list of "missing and overdue" vessels—a list that remains strangely large, despite the safeguards of modern ocean traffic. Insurance brokers become alarmed and friends of the crews are in suspense, as they read these lists from day to day. At length, if nothing is heard of the ships, the insurance is paid, the widows are soothed, the incident is forgotten.

In former days, all missing ships were marked off to pirates or to Moors. Harrowing were the reports which filtered through Europe of Englishmen made to walk the plank or Frenchmen tolling in Barbary galleys. Sometimes, too, there would come back rumors of mutiny, of voyages to the South Seas, and of island kingdoms

upreared by those who stole their ship. The story of Prince Madoc, passing into the Western Ocean and finding a new continent, is but another instance of the unwillingness of friends to recognize the toll of the deep. Perhaps the most famous voyage to the port of missing men in our own history is that of Theodosia Burr, the daughter of the renowned Aaron. Her vessel sailed from Charleston for New York, but never made its landing. Rumors were woven about her fate, and strange tales were told; but the truth was never known.

**HAY-LEAVES FOR MR. SLEMP.**

The New York Sun, which takes a curiously paternal interest in Virginia affairs out of a knowledge conceived by it as superabundant, expresses the hope that Hon. Campbell Bascom Slemp and his friends "will be successful in making Republicanism, whatever it is usually, somewhat as common as Democracy now is in that otherwise blessed spot"—viz., Virginia. What Mr. Slemp must do to make Republicanism "somewhat as common as Democracy" we haven't the least idea, that phrase being far too subtle with connotative shades to come within our ken. Doubtless Mr. Slemp knows, or can inquire.

Particularly are we interested in our far-sighted contemporary's assurance that "Mr. Slemp has done well in his district and elsewhere." The prophet who went unheeded in his own country is fatigued from much overwork, so we shall not trot him out here. Let us more directly felicitate Mr. Slemp upon thus revealing in the all-wise metropolis the full need of praise which has been somewhat wanting nearer home. Here in untutored Virginia there have been signs of mutiny and revolt; black glances and icy interrogatories; earnest desires to know what has become of the husky vote which Mr. Taft "delivered" a bare twelvemonth ago; even rebellious references to Mr. Alvah H. Martin as the destined successor to the Slemp shoes. Poor Virginia sees through a glass darkly, but the great centre of refinement and culture on the Hudson sees face to face, and there at least it is perceived that Mr. Slemp has done well. Nothing remains to us now except what or who it is that Mr. Slemp has done so well.

**BRIGHTENING THE FARM WINTER.**

The shortening of the winter days always means the lengthening of the farmers' woes. After a few hard rains most of our country roads will be impassable; out-of-door recreations will be few; cold winds will require almost unlimited firewood. In many districts by Christmas time the farmer will practically be cut off from the outer world, so to remain until spring. The result is a sense of loneliness and an isolation that constitutes one of the worst features of rural life.

Of course, these conditions can never be altogether changed before good roads are universal. Until that time the farmer must be in a world of his own, into which only the venturesome rider can come. On the other hand, when our roads become passable in the worst weather, the farmer's winter can be made as pleasant as his summer. With no crops to tend, and with little field work to do, he will have leisure to visit and opportunity to travel.

There are many things to indicate that this day will not be deferred until the millennium; but, in the meantime, there are many ways by which the farmer may break the monotony of long, dark days and long, cold nights. He may read more and improve his time by learning what the world is doing. He may study the newspapers and post himself regarding that happy land beyond the realm of muddy roads and draughty houses.

But few farmers, busy with the thoughts of farm life, can occupy themselves for ten hours a day in this manner. They want, if possible, something that has a bearing upon their own work and their own affairs. For these men there can be much of interest and more of value in reading of what is being done elsewhere in agriculture and in working out their future plans. The farmer who will carefully study agricultural literature will learn many things that will enable him to increase the productivity of his farm. Likewise the farmer who will work out a system of farm bookkeeping during idle winter evenings and find out where he gains and loses will become the better farmer and more skilled planter. He, like every one else, can learn in his leisure what will profit him in his busy season.

If the price of prunes goes up any further, we have no doubt that the close-knit landladies in New England will begin asking their boarders what part they prefer, the dark meat or the juice.

How Richmond would enjoy entering a November weather-show with towns like Charleston, S. C., Atlanta, Ga., and Houtageous Houston, Tex.!

Among those stoutly opposed to abolishing football are the associated undertakers. It is a rather gruesome thing to say, but we should fancy there is truth in it.

The irreconcilable difficulty is that the many land developed in the football field are usually killed off while they are boys.

The New York Evening Post describes Joe Cannon as "a foul-mouthed, so-called, no selfish politician, utterly out of sympathy with the wishes and spirit of the people of the United States." All right, all right! But we herewith challenge our ferocious contemporary to deny that Mr. Cannon is a dandy smoker.

One restraining thought in the minds of the administration, of course, is that G. Pinchot would be lousy.

If Margaret Hillington will feel that she wants to darn socks, it is possible—we shall put it no stronger—that we might supply her with a few useful names and addresses.

Sheriff Shipp will have plenty of

leisure time to devote to the regulation and discipline of his contempt department.

A Spanish soldier's pay in the field is a dollar a month, but some deny that he earns it.

Senator Aldrich remarks that Andrew Jackson was a great man, but is now dead. Well, we venture to say that a dead great man can stand comparison with a live peanut.

The Columbia State so far forgets itself as to suggest that an Illinois lynching is naturally "one of the more noisening kind." The state seems to be doing its best to bring on an Illinois lynching down in Columbia.

**PRESIDENTS AGAINST FOOTBALL.**

Executive of New York University Upholds Alderman's Demand for Change.

Two university presidents came out yesterday against the admission of football games as now played. Chancellor MacCracken, of New York University, asks college graduates to write to their colleges urging a reform of the football rules, so as to make the game as safe as the English Rugby, and President Alderman, of the University of Virginia, declares that "the peril of death and injury inherent in the strategy of the game (as now played in America) should be eliminated or the game itself abandoned." This is encouraging so far as it goes, but it will amount to nothing, unless followed up by determined action.

At this particular time, when killing after killing has awakened general attention to the brutality of the game, a new player, President Alderman and Chancellor MacCracken, should find no difficulty in getting the co-operation of leading college presidents throughout the country in a really decisive move for the ending of an inexcusable condition of things. If the presidents of the dozen or so of the most prominent colleges of the country united upon a plan of radical reform and simply insisted that the rules must be revised accordingly, or the game abolished, their colleges, the rules would be revised instantly. Hobson's choice—radical reform or the game abolished—placed in their hands. They have got it in their heads that the mass play is the game, and they insist that that notion can't be got out of their heads by the mere contemplation of a few promising young men butchered to illustrate the game. But when they find that the only way they can have college football at all is by making the game decent, so that the accommodation to the situation soon enough—New York Evening Post.

**BOOKWORMS KNOW NO CLASS.**

Woman Claims Parasites Work Harder in Rich New York.

Miss Susan Lawrence Davis, a hygienic expert of New York City, whose standing is unquestioned, says that after a trip of two months spent among the factories of Madison and Long Island counties, she has made observations have shown, says Miss Davis, "fully ten times as many parasites from the parasites in New York City as in the factories of Long Island." "I have examined several times as many persons in Alabama as in New York," she says. "In the factories of Alabama, the poor and the shiftless, I have found many victims among the wealthier classes. In the residence districts of New York City,"

Here is testimony that cannot be boot-pooped. Here is an expert who says here, and who has been in the Northern and Eastern States than there are in the South. Miss Davis has not completed her investigations, but she does not hesitate to say that the bookworm knows neither section nor latitude.

Those socialists and philanthropists who have endeavored to unload the bookworm on the South should study Miss Davis's forthcoming report. A result of it will be that the bookworm will be in the hands of John D. Rockefeller, who may be induced by it to create a \$1,000,000 fund to cure bookworm cases in Fifth Avenue, New York, or even in Newport. The Southern fund will hold good, no doubt, but it is plain it needs support from the North. The bookworm is the parasite to a greater extent than the South is—Birmingham Age-Herald.

**WILL RETAIN CENSOR.**

England's Mentor Has Not Yet Been

England is to retain its censor of plays, though the reports do not make it clear whether the censorious Mr. Redford will be retained, or whether the absolute prohibition of a play is to be replaced by a warning from the censor that police prosecution may follow a production of the same time, music halls, now exempt, are to be placed under the authority of the censor. The peculiar result of the campaign waged for the suppression of the censorship. Under that system, it was argued, serious plays of the highest order came under the ban while the indecencies of the vaudeville stage flourished untrammelled. The censor's investigation committee, after taking a good deal of testimony, seems to have gravely decided that the censor is the legitimate stage, so we had better put music halls, too, under the censor. The testimony given before the committee by England's most eminent men of letters was to the effect that the censorship was a necessary evil. The censorship was a necessary evil, and it was not to be abolished. The censor was to be retained, and the censor was to be retained.

**SKYSRAPER CHURCHES.**

Would Conform Ecclesiastical Edifices to Other Buildings.

The new edifice of the Fifth Avenue Baptist congregation, of which Mr. Rockefeller and other prominent business men are members, will not imitate the tendency in church architecture to depart from the traditional models and to build upward. Above the auditorium will be located the social parlors, Bible classrooms and other features of the skyscraper. The church will be a skyscraper in New York of this type is the Broadway Tabernacle, twelve stories high, in which the institutional departments are housed (a separate floors. Pittsburgh has a church located in a four-story building. To the end that the bequest devoted its site to "church purposes always and ever" should not be nullified.

As against these examples of the utilitarian church architecture, the new Cathedral of St. John the Divine reproduces the old form of ecclesiastical construction in all its stateliness. But the significant thing is the evidence shown of a disposition to make the city church edifice conform architecturally to the skyscraper. The skyscraper church has been evolved from the skyscraper office building and hotel, and that it is the type of church of the future seems probable.

To this development land values are no doubt a growing importance of institutional work. It is announced that the new Fifth Avenue Baptist Church will be "a place for work and worship," and in the statement is contained the keynote to the new church architecture and the new policy—New York World.

**Borrowed Jingles**

THAT AUTUMN UPHEAVAL.

When with dusty, dismal sound  
Comes the carpet-begging band,  
Every man who's looting round,  
Peels off with a rising groan.

Moves a lovely woman there,  
Down-covered, tumbled, fair,  
Palm-olive, tearful, and despair,  
Cleaning time is overdue.

To and fro and out and in,  
Flits she here and flees she there;  
Smudges show on cheek and chin,  
Calamine is in her hair.

But the lovely woman cares  
Not for pennies and scrubs the chairs,  
As she rubs and scrubs the chairs,  
Dusts the pictures and the books.

Bears her gentle brow a frown,  
And her grimy arms her hands;  
When her husband comes from town  
He the symptoms understand.

Well, he knows when men should bolt,  
After a long and weary dole,  
"I have got in swift revolt,"  
"He's come to leave, my dear."

"There's a man I want to see;  
He's some stock he wants to sell;  
He's some stock he wants to sell;  
I'll be gone for quite a spell."

"Then he quickly packs his grip,  
"Man lives out in Denver, dear;  
I wish you could take the trip,"  
Yes, it happens every year.

—Chicago News.

**MERELY JOING.**

Adding Insult to Injury.

"Mike," said Plodding Pete, "dere's wus tings dan good bricking."

"De lady of wud she'd gimme a cake,"  
"I'd like to see you do it," said Mike.  
"Yep," she handed me a cake of soap—  
Washington Star.

The First to Say It.  
Adam (dandling Cain): My young feller,  
how you're growin'! You'll be a man before  
your mother's—Puck.

Rev. The Mark.  
Two "jags" were ambling homeward at an  
early hour, and a lady, who was  
"Don't your wife miss you on these occasions?" asked one.  
"Often," replied the other. "She  
throws pretty straight."—Kansas City Journal.

Always Howling.  
"Now, Uncle Ned, isn't he just the sweetest  
little cherub in the world?"  
"Well, Lucy, I wish you could see what  
cherub he is when he's a specimen of plain human  
bait he is certainly a howling success."—  
Baltimore American.

Distantly Related.  
"Are you related to Barney O'Brien?"  
Thomas O'Brien, replied Thomas. "I was  
my mother's first child—Barney was the  
eleventh."—Chicago Daily Socialist.

**PERTINENT POINTS.**

A "trust busting" age, why not  
organize a movement to outlaw the  
men who have come to ruin the  
country, but are shy about violating a  
precedent—New York Tribune.

England's royal family, as time goes on,  
loses nothing of its ability to supply queens  
for all Europe. The young King of Portugal  
has been looking over the stock with a  
view to possible annexation—Boston Herald.

Champ Clark is sure that the next House  
of Representatives will be Democratic, and  
he is also sure that the Democratic majority  
will have sufficient gumption to elect him  
Speaker of the House—Knoxville Journal.

Some of the tests of social leadership in  
one New York circle is the ability to  
keep divorce proceedings from becoming  
public—Washington Star.

It must be a very stubborn man who will  
come out for woman suffrage after he has  
been elected. The woman who called a son of  
a gun in public a few times by the ladylike  
exponents of that righteous cause—Indianapolis Star.

Men have died for their country, but not  
for the good of their city—Boston Herald.

**WINNING OF THE WEST.**

Aldrich's Triumph Tour Rudeley

Checked by Senator's Manner.  
We were inclined to infer that Senator  
Aldrich had indeed completely conquered  
the West upon his current tour and  
was now returning home with a new  
friendship with the throbbing heart  
of that great section. From our  
knowledge of the Senator, we were not  
mistaken. The episode of the cowboy leg-  
ions accepted by the Senator in Omaha  
seemed convincing. But we are now confronted  
by another item set forth in the cold  
print of the Kansas City Star. It is  
that the Senator, while in the West, was  
hit Kansas City. But from it we fear  
the Senator.

The Senator arrived around break-  
fast time, and presently admitted  
the reception committee and the  
newspaper men to his private car.  
At once he began to make his  
way emanating from his lips: "Oh,  
yes; I am glad to meet you, and I  
have nothing to say. What a fatal  
mistake it is to let the free  
spoken West! And as if that were  
not enough, he added that when he  
had nothing to say he had nothing to  
say. The two rows of very white teeth  
were remarked and recorded by the observ-  
ers. The Senator then proceeded to  
blundering by criticizing the theory  
which the photographers required to  
take his picture in the rain. "They  
do it faster in the East," he exclaimed.  
At this point, to the eyes of the Mis-  
sourians, the Senator's face began to  
appear upon the person of the Senator  
from Rhode Island who can be as-  
tonished.

At first there was no hope for  
the father of the best tariff ever. Even  
the description of his raiment—"a dark  
overcoat and umbrella, a dark  
hat, a dark cane, a dark tie, a dark  
trousers"—betokens the hostile atti-  
tude of the spectators. No wonder that  
the Senator's face began to appear  
down and panned this list of "un-  
answered questions, which he had not  
intended to ask."

What do you do when you are not  
running the Senate?  
"Could you frame a tariff bill with  
your hands behind your back?"  
"When will there be another tariff  
bill, if ever?"  
"Could you run more than one Senate  
at a time?"  
"Did you ever see a voter?"  
"What are you going to do with  
the Senate when you get through with  
it?"

No. We very greatly fear that it is  
all over. The motives of the Senator in  
his tour of the West were of the noblest.  
But he failed to realize the throttling  
effect of a lifetime passed upon the  
shores of Narragansett Bay. He may  
wish he were a cowboy, he may even  
occasionally caper like one when the  
chameleon doesn't suit him. But  
something tells us that he will never  
succeed in convincing the Westerners  
that he is anything else than a blank-  
eted horse and a tall began—  
Yankee—New York Evening Sun.

Richmond merchants  
recognize the helplessness  
of our service  
representative.

Richmond Advertis-  
er, Agency, Inc.,  
Mutual Building,  
Richmond, Virginia.  
Established 1904.

**LA CLERVA GREY**

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Was One of Most Remarkable

Figures in Spanish

Life.

**BROUGHT ABOUT REFORMS**

Charged Others With Being Re-

sponsible for Recent Bar-

celona Incidents.

BY LA MARQUESE DE FONTENAY.

W HATEFUL and may be said  
about the late Maura adminis-  
tration in Spain, there is no  
doubt that the kingdom has  
sustained a great loss through the  
relegation to private life of the Minister  
of the Interior, Senor La Clerva, a re-  
former, not of the moderate, but of the  
convictive type. In fact, for a  
number of years past, he has been  
one of the most remarkable figures  
in Spanish life, until he has  
first of all, in his capacity as Governor  
of Madrid, and afterwards as Minister  
of the Interior, left a lasting impres-  
sion on the mind of the people of  
Madrid, he took steps to stop gam-  
bling, not only in the dives, but also  
in the fashionable clubs, several of  
which he himself raided, on one oc-  
casion arresting Brigadier General Don  
Francis of Bourbon, who ventured on  
the strength of his moralistic con-  
nection with Spanish society, and his  
preposterous pretensions to the throne  
of France, to obstruct the Governor  
of Madrid, and to force the adminis-  
tration, but also at court, and Don  
Francis of Bourbon was fined, sub-  
jected to military arrest, and  
placed under the restraint of the army.

La Clerva likewise insisted that not  
only theatres, but other places of  
entertainment, restaurants and cafes,  
should be closed at midnight. In order  
to appreciate what this meant at  
Madrid, it must be borne in mind that  
at that time was carried on after dark;  
that the fashionable visiting hour was  
after the opera or theatre was over,  
that it is to say, that the most per-  
fect revolution, Don Juan de la Clerva  
however, stood firm and added that  
one of the reasons for the backward-  
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